a steep rise in this. Is the Minister concerned about that ? And, if so, what steps he proposes to take to bring down the inflation ?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I am aware of what it was last year.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : I am very happy to hear that.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : It is not that I remain unaware of what happens. I am being paid salary to do the best I can. Of course, I am concerned. I am concerned that the rate of growth of inflation is crossing a certain limit. But the conditions that obtain this year are not the same as obtained last year. Among the factors that have contributed to this 6 per cent plus rate of growth for the last two or three weeks are of course the Gulf War, the accumulated effect of the drought and also certain increased higher price realisation in the manufacturing sector. The third one, I find is, healthy. I would encourage that the manufacturing sector remains healthy. The first two, the Gulf War and the drought, of course, have to be attend to. We should soon be witnessing a correction. We are closely monitoring the situation along with the Reserve Bank of India.

Impact of Iraq war on economy

*547. SHRI RAJ KUMAR DHOOT : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to unstarred question No. 2070 given in the Rajya Sabha on 11th March, 2003 and state :

(a) the achievements made during 2001-02 and 2002-03 with regard to higher private initiative and greater integration with the world economy, reducing the level of poverty and facilitating greater investment;

(b) the targets set out for 2003-2004 in these sectors;

(c) whether the war in Iraq will affect the targets set out;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to reduce the adverse impact of the war in Iraq ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (e) A statement is placed on the table of the House.

Statement

Impact of Iraq war on economy

(a) As per available information share of the private sector in the total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased from 74.1 per cent in 1993-94 to 76.0 per cent in 2001-02. During the same period, the share of private sector

investment in total investment increased from 61.2 per cent to 71.8 per cent. The share of total exports of goods and services in GDP, which is a measure of integration with the world economy, increased from 7.1 per cent in 1990-91 to 13.3 per cent in 2001-02. There has also been significant increase in Foreign Investment that increased from US $ 103 million in 1990-91 to US $ 59.25 million in 2001-02. The poverty ratio declined by nearly 10 percentage point in the five year period following 1993-94 to reach 26.1 per cent in 1999-2000.

(b) The growth rates are not set on an annual basis. The Tenth Plan (2002—07) has envisaged the share of private investment in total investment at 70 per cent and the share of exports and imports in GDP at 14.24 per cent and 17.71 per cent respectively. It has set a target of reduction of poverty by 5 percentage points by 2007. The *panch* priorities of the Union Budget 2003-04, which include, *inter alia*, poverty eradication, infrastructure development and accelerating reform process, are expected to create a conducive environment for accelerating private investment ensuring greater integration with world economy and consequently result in the reduction of poverty.

(c) to (e) The Government constantly reviews the situation arising out of the Iraq War and appropriate steps are taken in accordance with national interests and policy objectives. Measures were taken to insulate the economy from volatility in international crude oil prices. In the post-war scenario, it is our expectation Iraq will offer greater opportunities for trade and commerce with that country.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, with due defence, I would like to make a mention that the heading of this question has perhaps been inaccurately styled as Iraq War because the content of the question has only tangential reference to the Iraq War.

श्री राजकुमार धूत : माननीय सभापति महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने मेरे एक सवाल का जवाब तो दे ही दिया कि मुद्रास्फीति 5 से 6 परसेंट तक हो गई है और उसके कारण भी उन्होंने बताए कि अकाल पड़ा हुआ है, खाड़ी युद्ध हुआ है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि जो खर्चे हैं स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के और सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के, वे बार-बार ज्यादा हो रहे हैं, जिसमें एक सेलरी सिस्टम भी है वह भी बार-बार बढ़ रहा है और जिसके कारण राज्यों पर भी असर पड़ रहा है। इसके कारण भी मुद्रास्फीति ज्यादा बढ़ने जा रही है, तो इस संबंध में क्या आप कोई ठोस कदम उठाने जा रहे हैं ?

श्री जसवंत सिंह : माननीय सभापति महोदय, प्रश्न का मूल यह है कि खर्चा कम होना चाहिए। मैं मानता हूं कि खर्चा कम होना चाहिए, राज्यों का भी कम होना चाहिए और केन्द्र का भी कम होना चाहिए और इसके लिए वित्त-मंत्रालय में हम निरंतर प्रयत्न करते हैं। इसीलिए वित्त मंत्रालय

और वित्त मंत्री सबके लिए यह सबसे अनपापुलर चीज होती है। इसमें मैं आपको बता दूं कि वित्त मंत्रालय ने अभी हाल में यह जो कैश मैनेजमेंट सिस्टम लागू किया है, जैसा पिछली बार मैंने जिक्र किया, कि इतने मंत्रालयों को हम बजट का एलोकेशन इतना दे रहे हैं। हम सभी प्रयत्न कर रहे हैं कि खर्चा कम हो।

श्री राजकुमार धूत : सभापति जी, मेरा दूसरा सप्लीमेंटरी यह है कि सरकार का अनुमान सही है कि युद्ध के बाद हमें अधिक अवसर प्राप्त होंगे। तो क्या सरकार ने युद्ध के बाद इराक के आर्थिक विकास के लिए अमरीका के साथ साझेदारी की संभावना पर विचार किया है, विशेषता ऑयल क्षेत्र में, जिसमें उत्पादन में हिस्सा मिल सके और इंजीनियरिंग के क्षेत्र में, जिसके कारण अधिक ठेके मिल सकें, हमारे लोगों को वहां पर काम मिल सके ? अगर हां, तो उसमें कौन-से क्षेत्र हैं ? और, अगर नहीं, तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह प्रार्थना करूँगा कि वे इसके ऊपर जरूर ध्यान दें ताकि हमारी आर्थिक स्थिति में और ज्यादा फॉरेन एक्सचेंज अर्न हो सके।

श्री सभापति : माननीय मंत्री महोदय,, प्रार्थना पर विचार करें।

श्री जसवंत सिंह : सभापति जी, यह प्रश्न तो अपने आप में मूलत: विदेश मंत्रालय से हो तो ज्यादा उचित रहेगा।

Installation of display panels at IGI airport

*548. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY : ††
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indira Gandhi International Airport has acquired six 42-inch plasma display panels, along with 15 colour TVs to give a face-lift to the Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any plan to extend the same to other airports in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

Installation of Display Panels at IGI Airport

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Four 42" Plasma Display Panels (for display of flight related information) and 12 Colour TVs (for passenger entertainment) have been procured by IGI Airport on 'no cost to Airports Authority of India (AAI)' basis *i.e.* on sponsorship basis under the ongoing 'Airport Improvement Initiatives' programme.

†† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Rama Muni Reddy Sirigireddy.